

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief Lowell Porter



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Washington State Patrol Concerned Over Recent Increase in Highway Fatalities

In the past week, there were seven collisions which caused 19 deaths on Washington highways. That, according to the State Patrol, is a tragedy. Fatalities have occurred in Spokane, Seattle, Olympia, Yakima, Poulsbo, Port Angeles, and Morton.

"Our sympathies are with those families who have lost a loved one," said WSP Chief Lowell Porter. "These tragedies on our roads further our resolve to strictly enforce our core mission of speeding, drunk driving, seat belts, and aggressive driving," he said. "We are passionate about our enforcement efforts making the roads safer for our friends, families, and children."

Year to date, there have been 66 deaths on Washington highways. Last year at the same time, there were 56 deaths.

"It is important to understand that our enforcement efforts are directly geared toward providing safety on our roads for our families, friends, and children," Chief Porter said. "So many injury and fatal collisions can be avoided if these four core mission areas are followed," he said, adding "We encourage everyone to drive carefully and safely and follow the rules of the road."

According to the WSP, last year there was an 11% reduction in highway fatalities and an 8% reduction in injury collisions. Total fatalities in 2002 were 312. Last year, in 2003, there were 262 fatalities on Washington highways.

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